

# Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Program

*Is your child fascinated by fire? Have you ever found your child playing with matches or lighters?*

## **A parent's worst nightmare--your child with burns**

Have you ever found your child playing with matches or lighters?

Does your child have an unusual fascination with fire?

Does your child stare into flames in the fireplace, range, or outdoor cooking facility?

Does your child ask you questions about fire that you find difficult to answer?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, contact the Bloomington Fire Department. We can provide you with information, and your child with education and instruction that answers their questions and may help prevent accidental fires resulting from a child’s natural curiosity about fire.



## **Specialized education and training can prevent tragedy!**

The Bloomington Fire Department fire prevention and public education programs have reached a large number of school-age and pre-school children in the community. However, a specific need was recognized for individualized awareness education for children found playing with fire.

Nationally, experience has shown that early intervention with juvenile firesetters focuses young people on the dangers of fire and the hazards to life and property. It may also serve as a deterrent to potential fire-related criminal activities which could occur later in life.

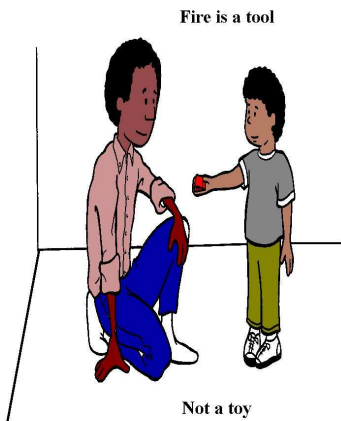
## **Each program is tailored to meet your needs**

All programs are based on National and State recognized programs. Materials include a combination of formal educational materials as well as specific projects oriented to local problems and concerns.

The focus of each program starts with the dangers of fire. Each session includes one on one discussions with fire department staff. Videos help reinforce the topics discussed, and take-home assignments allow parents to participate and monitor their child's progress.

Each child is given a mission, and assignments designed to reinforce the mission. A typical challenge is to have the child be the leader of their home fire safety plan. The take-home projects reinforce the lessons and also encourage family participation in the program.

## **Bloomington Fire Department will assist you and your child**



When the temptations of fire, and curiosity of children cross paths, devastation can occur. Effective intervention at an early age helps children and parents understand the dangers of fire.

The Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Program educates and instructs parents and children about the dangers and consequences of fire. Bloomington Fire Department staff initially interviews the child, parents and other family members as needed to develop a flexible, individualized series of one-on-one sessions that highlight the emotional, physical, financial, and legal consequences of improper fire use.

This program is not intended to take the place of professional counseling, discipline or the juvenile justice system. Its purpose is to assist parents and children by providing educational opportunities specifically oriented towards fire safety.

**For more information please contact us at:**

**Bloomington Fire Department  
P.O. Box 100  
300 E. 4th St.  
Bloomington, Indiana 47402  
812-332-9763 (office hours 8am-5pm, M-F)**